The Boss of Lazy Y

A "Two-Gun Man" Story of the Ranch Lands

By CHARLES ALDEN SELTZER

· CHAPTER X.

A Tragedy in the Timber Grove. PRE Marston, ain't you?"

he said, slowly and painfully, gasping with every "I've heard the Taggarts talk about you. Old Tem's developed a yellow streak his old age an' he's leavin' is dirty work to Neal. Neal's a yellow streak, too, for matter, but he's young an' got no sense. I reckon I'm agreed Calumet. "But after this somewhere now, an' so I can peace meetin'"—
what I like. Taggart ain't no "We ought to come to terms," said in that idol business as your dad was. He told me. But he's got Telza soft-scaped into thinkin' that Betty Clay-ton's folks snaked it from Telza's people. Taggart's got evidence that your dad planted the idol around here somewheres—seems to know that your dad drawed a diagram of lace an' left it with Betty. He set Telza to huntin for it. Telza set it to-night—it was hid somewhere was with him-waitin' for him. and take it away from him. Taggart diagram. I tried to get it from he stuck his toad-sticker in me, He"— He hesttated and choked, raising himself as though to get a long breath. But a dark flood again stained his lips, he strangled and

handkerchief. Then he stood up, looking around at the edge of the clearing. Ten feet in front of him, chiled around the edge of a bit of safebrush, was a dirty white object. He walked over, kicked the sagebrush violently, that a concealed ratter might not spring on him, and tler might not spring on him, and ter might not spring on him, and took up the object. It was a piece of paper about six inches square, and in the dim moonlight Calumet could see that it contained writing of some sore and a crude sketch. He looked closer at it, saw a spot marked "Idol is here," and then folded it quickly and placed it, crumpled into a ball, into a pocket of his trousers.

He was now certain that Taggart had been merely deceiving Betty:

been merely deceiving Betty; had been no other significance

from Taggart was another man, also astride a horse. A rifle was at this man's shoulder; his cheek was nuz-sting its stock, and Calumet saw that the weapon was aimed at his chest.

He rapidly noted the positions of
the two, estimated the distance, de-olded that the risk of resistance was

tee great, and slowly raised his hands above his head.

"Burprise party, eh?" he said.

"Well," he added in a self-accusing voice, "I reckon I was dreamin'

voice. "I reckon I was dreamin' some."
Neal Taggart dismounted, moving quickly aside so that the man with the rifle had an unobstructed view of Calumet. He went close to the

"So it's you, sh?" he said. "We saw "So it's you, en? he said. We saw you tearin' up an' down the river trail when we was back in the timber a piece. Racin' your fool head off. Nothin' in slight. Saw you come in here ten minutes ago. What you

Nothin' in signt. Saw you come to minutes ago. What you doin' here?"
"Exercisin'," said Calumet: "takin' my midnight constitutional." He looked at the man with the rifle. The latter was hatless. Long gray hair, unkempt, touched his shoulders; a white beard, scraggly, dirty, hid all of his face except the beak-like, awry ness. Beady, viciously glowing eyes fearned out of the grotesque mask.

Who's your friend?" questioned

with a derisive grin.

short laugh, though his eyes shone with a sudden hardness; "I thought it

say what I like. Taggart ain't no "We ought to come to terms," said friend of mine-neither of them. Taggart, placing his rifle in the sad-dle holster as Calumet's hands came They've played me dirt—more than down. "There hadn't ought to be any comes. My name's Al Sharp. You bad blood between us. Me an' your a fallin' out over that she devil which he lived with—Ezela." There was an insincere grin on his face.

elder Taggart had some ulterior mo-tive in suggesting a peace conference. He noted that while Taggart talked his eyes kept roving around the clearwas Sharp and teles. It sharp and that Calumet had seen Teles and Sharp, or one of them, enter the clearing, and had followed them. Neal had said that they had seen Calumet the had been been up and when he had been racing up and down the river trail; they had suspected that he had been after Sharp or Telza, and had followed him. No doubt they were afflicted with a great curlosity. They were playing for time in order to discover his errand.

"I reckon we'll get along without mushin'," suggested Calumet. "What terms are you talkin' about?" climbed down from his mand. "That's square, ain't it?" He looked

at Calumet with the beginning of a bland smile, which instantly faded he found himself looking into the gap-ing muzzles of Calumet's pistols, which had appeared with magic ease

The disappointed gleam in Tagpart's eyes showed that such had been Calumet picked up the rifle which
his intention. "There wasn't to be no shootin' until after we'd held our mounted his horse, and drove the peace meetin," he compalained.

"Correct," said Calumet. "But the decided that he would keep them there termined to discover the truth. there had been no other significance "Correct," said Calumet. "But the decided that he would keep them there to his visits. The visits were merely peace meetin is now over. Get your for an hour or so, to give the Taggarts. "I've some bad news for you," said. While he had been talking to keep them there to get well on their way toward said. "Shucks," he returned with a great the corral rence. She was termined to discover the truth. "I've some bad news for you," said. "Shucks," he returned with a great the corral rence. She was termined to discover the truth. "I've some bad news for you," said. "Shucks," he returned with a great the corral rence. She was termined to discover the truth. "I've some bad news for you," said.

A COMPLETE NOVEL EACH WEEK IN THE EVENING WORLD

Shrinking from his awe-inspiring wrath, they retreated from him, her hands tightly over her breast at backed toward their horses. They had almost reached them when Calumet's voice brought them to a halt.

His lips were wreathed in a cold strip, his even alight with a strategy whom he had— She shuddered. That grin, his eyes alight with a satanic humor. But the rage had gone from his voice; it was mocking, derisive. his voice; it was mocking, derisive he "Goin' to ride?" he said. "Oh, the don'! Them horses look dead tired. Leave them here; they need a rest. the Besides, a man can't do any thinkin' he to amount to anything when he's to forkin' a horse, an' I reckon you two coyotes will be doin' a heap of thinkin' on your way back to the Arrow."

"Good Lord!" said the elder Taggart; "you don't mean that? Why, it's fifteen miles to the Arrow!"

"Shucks," said Calumet; "so it is!
An it's after midnight, too. But you wouldn't want them poor, respectable critters to be gallivantin' around

and quickness.

"I'm runnin' a little surprise party for my own," declared Calumet. "Was you thinkin' I was fool enough to go to gassin' with you, trustin' that you to gassin' with you, trustin' that you wouldn't take your chance to perforate me? You've got another guess garts had almost reached the bend, and while he watched they vanished

on Betty. I know the rest. I know you tried to make a monkey out of my dad, you damned old ossified scarecrow! If you open your trap again I'll just naturally pulverize you!

I reckon that's all I've got to say to you.

He walked over to Neal and the latter she had observed the shough the I'lves depended on has'e. That's how you window, she had seen him returning: saw him disappear into the timber damp.

Some time later she had observed the Walked over to Neal and the latter shrank from the bitter malignance of his gaze.

"Can you tell me why I ain't lettin' daylight through you'!" he said as he shoved the muzzle of his six-shooter deep into Neal's stomach holding it a there with savage steadiness as he leaned forward and looked into the lea there with savage steadiness as he leaned forward and looked into the tother's eyes. 'It's because I ain't a sneak an' a murderer. I ain't ambushin' nobody. I've done some killin' in my time, but I ain't never plugged no man who didn't have the same chance I had. I'm givin' you a chance.''

He drew out one of the weapons he had taken from the two men, holding it by the muzzle and thrusting it under Neal's nose. The terrible, suppressed rage in his eyes caused a shiver to run over Neal; his face turned a dull white, his eyes stared shovel, and what had been done there of grasp the weapon.

"I ain't fightin'," he said with trembling lips.

"I ain't fightin'," he said with trembling lips.

turned a dull white, his eyes stared shovel, and what had been done there are stared to guns, eh." he said. "Reach out an grasp them. But say your prayers before you do—you an' that sufferin' monolith with the underbrush seattered all over his mug. Come an' take them!" He jeered as he saw Neal Targart's face whiten. "Hell!" he added as he saw the elder Taggart make a negative motion toward his son, "you ain't got no clear thoughts just at this minute, eh?"

"We ain't aimin' to force trouble," growled the older man. "We're just curious, that's what. Also, there's a last time. I'm layin' for you after turned a dull white, his eyes stared shovel, and what had been done there a during the hour that he had remained I there? The idol, she knew, was bling lips.

"Calumet reversed the gun and stepped back, laughing harshly, without mirth."

"Of course you ain't fightin." he said with trembling lips.

"Of course you ain't fightin." he said with trembling lips.

"Of course you ain't fightin." he said with trembling she did not know just where, for she had looked at the diagram hould not, under any circumstances, have examined the diagram again. I have examined the diagram again. I have examined the diagram for you'll give your word that there won't be no gun play until after the peace meetin' is over, you can take your hands down."

"No shootin' goes right now."

Shrinking from his awe-inspiring the now that had been done there added his court in the timber clump; whe should not connect. Calumet's should not, under any circumstances, have examined the diagram again. It is but she did not connect. Calumet's the was concealed point a safe place, under a board in the was concealed point and the was certain that calumet had any on the larger of the impercation of the court in the plot and there? The idol, she knew, was in there? The idol, she knew, was in the timber clump; she did not know it to the timber clump; she did not connect Calumet's the visit to the timber clump; with the clump; she did not connect Calumet's the pr only once, when Calumet's father horses."

had shown it to her. She had a superstitious dread of the idol and strangely like relief.

"Well," she said, "it was fortunate would not, under any circumstances," "Well," she said, "it was fortunate to be there to any But she did not connect Calumet's the idol."

visit to the timber clump with the diagram, for the latter was concoaled pictous grin, "I reckon you feel a in a safe place, under a board in the closet that led off her room; she had looked at it only once since Calumet' were not to have the idol just yet, had returned, and that only hastily, but it is better for you to have it to make sure that it was still there, and she was certain that Calumet had no knowledge of its whereabouts.

Could Calumet have—She pressed hid?" he asked.

She told him no, that she had never think that! But he had a violent temper, and there were those men in Lazette, Denver and the other man, whom he had— She shuddered. That must be the explanation for his strange actions. But still she had heard no shot, and there was a chance that the diagram—

Tremblingly she made her way to the closet and removed the loose board. A tin box met her eyes, the

board. A tin box met her eyes, the her fingers shaking as she fumb at the fastening and raised the he. The box was empty. For a long time she sat there look

ing at it, anger and resentment fight ing within her for the mastery. Of course the idol really belonged to Calumet; she would have given to him in time, but that thought d get back, an' if they want to go home, her privacy she began after a while why, I'll let them." His voice changed to view the matter with greater calm. again; it rang with a menacing command.

"Walkin' is good!" he said: "get night, lying on her back in bed and goin! You've got three minutes to get to that bend in the trail over by hiding place of the diagram, she came downstairs shortly after daylight and the crick. It's about half a mile. I'm downstairs shortly after daylight and proceeded caimly about her duties. I turn around I'm workin' that rifle there."

There was a silence which might have lasted a second. Only this small space of time was required by the Taggarts to convince them that Calumet was in deadly earnest. Then, with Neal leading, they began to run toward the bend in the trail.

Shortly Calumet turned. The Tagsee him looking at her with amused, one of the did his face closely as the prepared himself for breakfast. But without result. If he had gained possession of the idol his face did not betray him. But once during the meal she looked up unexpectedly to see him looking at her with amused.

see him looking at her with amused speculative eyes. Then she knew h

"Shucks," he returned with a grin

He reddened. "I reckon you deserve them," he said sneeringly, "Taggart's makin' a fool of you. I more than a fool of you. I followed him, but lost him. Then I got into the clearin' in the timber. I run into a man named Al Sharp, who'd been knifed by the Toitec. Him an' the Toitec had been detailed by Taggart to get the diagram. Sharp said Taggart knowed my dad had drawed one. Telza got it last night while you was talkin' to Taggart. Frame-up. Sharp tried to take it away from Telza, an' Telza knifed him. Sharp's dead. I buried him last night. Telsa dropped the diagram. I got it. I reckon Telza has sloped. Then I met Taggart an' his dad. They reckoned they didn't like my company overmuch an' they walked home. Didn't even wait to take their horses."

onsulted the diagram.
"I reckon," he said, looking into her steady eyes, "that you're tellin' the truth. In that case it will be safe where it is for a while. I'll be lookin' it up when I get hold of the

Her ohin raised triumphantly,

tion. Certainly there was mockery
in her voice when she answered him.
"Indeed!" she said. "I presume I
am to take that as a compliment?"
"But you will be a fool if you cottion up to Neal Taggart." he continued, paying no attention to her
question. "I know men. Taggart's question. "I know men. Taggart's a no good four-flusher, an no woman can be anything if she takes up with

special content of the conduction of the conduct

Author of "NETHER DATE." "THE MAR IN LOWER TRUE"."

Designation in her voice; he was assent the second of the second that the change in the second that the second that the change in the second that the second the second that the second that the second that the second the

"You will not get that so easily," she said. "But," she added, interestedly, "now that you know where the idol is, why den't you get it and convert it into cash?"

He reddened and eyed her with a decidedly creatfallen air. "I ain't so much stuck on monkeyin' with them religious things," he admitted.

Azzin a doubt arcas is his mind the stroke she had subdued him, humbled him. It was as though a him blesh is with had suddenly been turned on him, showing him the mean, deeple-able side of him, contrasting it with the little good which had oem a facility to promise. Then the light had been as suddenly turned of, leaving him with a gnawing, impotent longing to be much stuck on monkeyin' with them religious things," he admitted.

Again a doubt arose in his mind concerning her relations with Neal Taggart. The fact that she had not divulged the hiding place of the idol to him was proof that if he had been trying to deceive her he had not succeeded. This thought filled him with a sudden elation.

"Lately," he said, "It begins to look as though you was gettin' some sense. You're gettin' reasonable. I reckon you'll be a bang-up girl, give you time."

Her lips curied, but there was a flash of something in her eyes that he could not analyze. But he was his surrender.

The Girl Who Had No God By MARY ROBERTS RINEHART

sk the timber clump showing where the serious in the timber clump showing where the garts will swar against me. Where's garts will swar against me. Where's my chance?"

She was slient, and he laughed again. They've got me, I reckon—the the rangelons. Also, it was this uttered suspictons. Also, it was this uttered suspictons. Also, it was sit in the surrender.

She looked up, intending to thank him. He was walking away, and did not look around at her call.

THIS Father's Priend.

CHAPTER XII.

His Father's Priend.

ETTY did not see Calumet again that day, and only at meal time on the day following. He had nothing to say to her at these times, though it was plain from the expression on his face when she covertly looked at him that he was thinking deeply. She hoped this were true; it was a good sign. On the morning of the third day he sadded the black horse and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when le devalue and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away to hear a three third day he sadded the black horse and rode away, telling Bob, who happened to be near him when he devalue and rode away to hear and rode away to he and rode away to hear and rode away to hear and rode away to he

By Hazen Conklin

By Hazen conklin

By Hazen conklin

"You act," he said suspiciously, "as though you wanted to keep me here."
"No, no!" she denied breathlessly, her eyes bright and her cheeks afame. "How can you think that? I have brought you some money; you will need it." She had a leather bar in her hands, and she seized it by the bottom and turned out its contents—a score or more of twenty-dollar gold pieces.

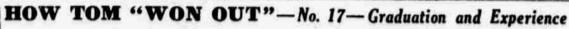
a score or more of twenty-dollar gold pieces.

"Take them," she said as he hest-tated. And, not waiting for him to act, she began to gather them will she was nervous though, and dropped many of them several times, so that he felt that time would have been gained if she had not touched them. He returned them to the bag with her help and placed the bag in a pocket of his trousers. Then once more he said good-by to her.

(To Be Continued.)

(To Be Continued.)

GOING AWAY FOR THE SUMMER? Remember The Evening World prints each week a complete up-to-date novel -week's reading! Have The Evening World sent to your summer address.







At the office Mr. Jones gives Tom plenty of im-portant work to do, helping hint to get all possible practical experience at court in all sorts of cases.

Rapidly the year draws toward its end. One day Mr Jones calls Tomaside and says: "I want to have a serious talk with you."—Concluded to morrots.



At last comes the day of Tom's graduation from law school. There, pride beaming in her eyes, sits watching his mother, her dream of an "education for Tom" realized at last. With her sits Bessie.

goal is a year of practical work in a law office. This he must have before admission to the bar Mr. Jones

ly to the framed certificate, hanging in his room, an-nouncing to all the world that her son now can sign